



ITD Alliance



ITD Alliance and INSciTS 2026 Seminar Series

The International Network for the Science of Team Science and the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity are partnering to host a webinar series in the spirit of both organizations interests in pursuing a deeper understanding of collaborations across different disciplines. These are designed to be periodic virtual seminars on developments in complex collaborative research. Below you'll find information on our upcoming session, along with registration information. Contact sfiore@ucf.edu if you have questions.

2026 ITD Alliance and INSciTS Virtual Seminar Series

Philosophical Perspectives on Inter- and Transdisciplinarity: Pluralism, Reflexivity, and Critique

Thursday, January 22, 2026

9:00am (PST), 12:00noon (EST), 6:00pm (CET)

Register for event here:

<https://forms.gle/PmDSBKjXfZeTB4HY7>

One century after interdisciplinarity's inception, in 2025, *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies* published a special issue on the Philosophy of Interdisciplinarity (<https://interdisciplinarystudies.org/volume-42-2024/>). Despite the growing significance of interdisciplinarity, especially in the last 50 years, philosophical engagement with it has been limited. This issue offers contemporary contributions by authors from countries around the world with themes representing perspectives on the plurality of interdisciplinary research (IDR). This panel brings together a subset of contributors from that special issue. Coeditors Machiel Keestra and Jan Schmidt will offer a brief introduction to the special issue. Schmidt then will introduce his concept of "critical-reflexive interdisciplinarity". Bethany Laursen will discuss a new conceptual and visual tool known as "integrative topologies". Keestra finally discusses his ideas on epistemic injustice, resistance, and openness in IDR. Moderated by Stephen Fiore, the webinar closes with a shared conversation on the benefits and challenges of philosophy of interdisciplinarity for IDR.



Panelist: Dr. Bethany Laursen,
Team Science Specialist,
Michigan Institute for Clinical
and Health Research,
University of Michigan



Panelist: Machiel Keestra,
Central Diversity Officer,
Assistant Professor, Institute
for Interdisciplinary Studies,
University of Amsterdam



Panelist: Dr. Jan Cornelius Schmidt, Professor of
Philosophy of Science and
Technology, University of
Applied Sciences,
Darmstadt, Germany



Moderator: Stephen M. Fiore,
Pegasus Professor of Cognitive
Sciences, University of Central
Florida, Orlando, FL USA



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Panelists: Bethany Laurse, Machiel Keestra, and Jan Cornelius Schmidt

Moderator: Stephen M. Fiore

Panelists Bios

Prof. Dr. Jan Cornelius Schmidt is a physicist and philosopher. Since 2008 he has been professor of philosophy of science and technology at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences / European University of Technology EUT+. Schmidt was professor of philosophy of technology at Georgia Institute of Technology, invited stand-in-professor or visiting professor at universities in Jena, Klagenfurt and Vienna. He is a past member of the scientific advisory board of the transdisciplinary net (td-net) of the Swiss Academies of Sciences and Arts (2014-2021). In 2022, he published the book: "Philosophy of Interdisciplinarity: Studies in Science, Society and Sustainability" (with Routledge).

Dr. Bethany Laursen is an integration and implementation specialist who focuses on tools that aid crossdisciplinary integration. She has extensive experience in designing, delivering, and studying team science interventions. Dr. Laursen has built robust partnerships nationally and internationally through her leadership in INSciTS, the ITD Alliance, and the Toolbox Dialogue Initiative. She is the Team Science Specialist at the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research at the University of Michigan and founder of Laursen Evaluation and Design, LLC, a crossdisciplinary research consultancy.

Professor Machiel Keestra is Philosopher at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies and Researcher at the Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation, and Central Diversity Officer at the University of Amsterdam. He is co-founder of the Keti Koti Table intercultural dialogue initiative. He has published on the philosophy of cognitive neuroscience and of interdisciplinarity, including 'An Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research' (Amsterdam University Press, 2022). He is past president of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies and a founding board member of the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity.

Moderator Bio

Stephen M. Fiore is Director, Cognitive Sciences Laboratory, and Pegasus Professor with the University of Central Florida's Cognitive Sciences Program in the Department of Philosophy and Institute for Simulation and Training. Dr Fiore is past-president of, and was a founding board member for, the International Network for Science of Team Science (INSciTS). He is also a founding board member and past-president of the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGROUP), as well as a founding board member of the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD-Alliance). Dr Fiore maintains multidisciplinary research interests that incorporate aspects of the cognitive, social, organizational, and computational sciences in the investigation of learning and performance in individuals and teams.